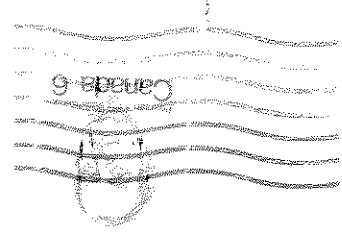
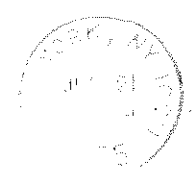


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She sees "democracy" as it really is, - a sham to cloak a dictatorship of exalted ignorance based on the myth that consensus is right, and sanctified by a ritual in which "wise" people and fools alike are persuaded to put crosses on pieces of paper.

As regards Amin, he is the sorry result of a faith in "democracy". When Uganda was under British rule, most British socialists demanded that colonies and protectorates be given "self-government" according to the "democratic" idea. When the new concept of voting for "leaders" was eventually imposed upon an illiterate people its true nature became apparent. The Ugandans had not been indoctrinated in public schools to be complaisant followers. All hell broke loose, and "independence" became worse than colonialism.

Consensus is not the sacred source of right decisions. Consensus at one time said, "Columbus, you are a fool, everybody knows that you can't get east by going west." Consensus said, "Orville, and Wilbur, you ought to know that a machine heavier than air cannot fly." Consensus of scientists, even, once said, "There are certain elements which will not combine chemically with other elements." The thrust of progress has always been to prove consensus wrong.

The truth is that nature has provided for our social needs just as she has provided for our individual needs. A billion brain-washed serfs marking crosses on pieces of paper cannot abrogate nature's title to the wages we earn, nor the community's title to the ground-rent we create.

Voting has its place, but a limited place excluding any question of dictatorial interference with the right of individuals to the full fruits of their labour or to live his own life in equal freedom with all others.

BUDGET THOUGHTS

It would be a miracle if any legislation likely to be approved by Parliament resulted in improved social conditions, particularly a decrease in involuntary unemployment and the achievement of a distribution of wealth in which rewards were directly in proportion to skill and effort. Only by a miracle would an economically illiterate politician be able to produce such a result.

So, it was no surprise to learn of the provisions of the Turner budget. The best that can be said for it is that it is fairly mild, and being so will not have too great a disturbing effect on those producers of goods and those providers of services who have been able to co-exist with the punitive laws which have so far burdened them.

The extra taxes on fuel will cause a reduction in all production with corresponding unemployment, for transportation forms a great part of the cost of many of our commodities. Since fewer goods and services will be exchangeable against an increasing quantity of money, inflation will be felt more keenly. Yes, this is another deficit budget designed to cure unemployment and inflation!

The subsidies for low-cost housing are fortunately not great. All subsidies for housing cause an increase in the price of the factor in home-buying which is truly insensitive to changes in costs of production, - the land factor. Land has no cost of production, and as we know, its price is always the most the market will bear. A home buyer with a subsidy of £1,000 can now afford to pay £1,000 more than before. The improvements cannot absorb this (except only temporarily and in small measure) and so the home buyer now has £1,000 more which will be the amount lots will rise in price and still cost all the market will bear. More gifts for landlords. More punishment for working people.

TEACHING COMMUNISM

A teacher in a New Westminster secondary school gave a class an assignment on "control of energy". The students first were told that the issue was control by either the federal or the provincial government because control was absolutely necessary. The students were asked to produce statements in favour of one level of control or the other, and although one student mentioned the possibility of no government control of any kind, this idea was rejected out of hand as being beyond the realm of possibility.

While we maintain an army to keep communism out of Canada we have Marxist teaching provided for our children in the schools. It was Karl Marx who a hundred years ago advocated government control of the production and distribution of wealth and services as a panacea for social problems. Communists rejoice!

The matter of energy use is important from the point of view of its constructive or destructive application, but if we need authorities to control the application, then we will have to include all the ways in which people are expending energy, - in breathing, eating in procreating or worshipping, in fact in every aspect of living.

What is germane here is the energy expended on so-called education. It appears that government-controlled "education" is the worst kind, because when people are told what to think, they are merely being indoctrinated. This practice serves to deprive children of the opportunity to achieve their full potentials. True education should show that there are ways of discovering the nature

of man and of the universe, and should promote independent thinking.

The situation warrants action. The human race has a future so bright and promising if only we can overcome our apathy and listlessness, and cease to accept meaningless cliches without examination. For the sake of our children we must go to work.

Gunnar Jeberg.

CRUMBLING DEMOCRACY

In the light of recent political events we are led to ask what democracy is, and whether there exists anywhere in the world a political system that remotely achieves the ideals claimed for democracy.

After Richard Nixon's entrapment we have had other examples of wrongdoing by "leaders" in democracy. Amin of Uganda is no different from a Caligula or a diminutive Ghengis Khan. Indira Gandhi, having been convicted of political wrongdoing, immediately has hundreds of people arbitrarily imprisoned. Pierre Elliott Trudeau is accused of using two helicopters at public expense for political advantage, and remains unprosecuted.

Three of these events have one common feature. They have only come to public notice because political opponents thought it would improve their power position to make a fuss. The question of right or wrong is immaterial to them. They will attack corruption, not from a hate of wrongdoing, but in a desire to prosper from the discomfiture of a rival.

Nixon was not ruthless in his cover-up, and so succumbed, probably because he still had in his mind a residual awe of democratic process. Mrs Gandhi has none of this.